



**JOHN DELANEY**  
dust flies as he sends in  
Wycombe's first goal from  
the spot.

# It's a gift as Erith give way to Wycombe

By **MIKE WHITESMAN:** Wycombe W. 2, Erith & B. 0

WYCOMBE WANDERERS dismissed the F.A. Cup aspirations of shock-side Erith & Belvedere with disappointing ease at Loakes Park on Saturday. There was barely a hint that the Kent Athenian Leaguers, who had k.o.'d mighty St. Albans City in the opening round, were about to kill their second giant. Frankly, it was never really on.

But if things have run smoothly for Wanderers so far, then the prospect of a home tie with Isthmian rivals, Hitchin Town in the third qualifying round on October 18, should be enough to keep them cautious.

Certainly, they neither had to, nor did, anything to shout over on Saturday. The goals were both Erith 'gifts', the first a penalty, the second a poor moment of marking that left Viv Busby acres of room in the visitors' area.

And, after that, everything fitted into place accordingly.

At first, however, Erith snapped out an early warning. Butterfill shot waist high but wide in the 11th minute, and two minutes later, Radmore set Wanderers thinking when he put Jones away on the wing. An inside cross gave Cooper the chance to force a swift save from John Maskell.

Erith had in that instant won the respect of Loakes Park. Yet foolishly they turned to spoiling tactics, twice hucking down Geoff Anthony, before paying the price of trying their luck for a third time.

Full back Whittington fouled Wanderers' Welsh wizard inside the area after 34 minutes, leaving skipper John Delaney the task of calmly placing a spot kick low to Everitt's right.

Without this break, Wycombe could not have been happy with the state of affairs at the interval.

Missing Tony Horseman from the forward line, the attack was just not hard-hitting enough, although replacements centre-forward Viv Busby did nonetheless deliver a few precious samples of his potential with neat and clever footwork on occasions.

Keith Samuels, similarly brought into the match after Ken Ward had failed to pass fit, had an unhappy time near goal. Everitt covered a 'Sammy' shot after 39 minutes, and then the moustachioed number ten saw his tricky dipping lob curve inches over the bar.

But it still remains a mystery how Samuels ballooned the ball, high when placed practically on the Erith line in the 51st minute.

Wanderers had already been handed the game on a silver platter two minutes into the second session, when Busby found the ball at his feet and no one else within yards of him. With only Everitt to beat, he steadied himself and chipped over the 'keeper for number two.

But, to their credit, Erith, after practically throwing the game away, weren't going to let Wanderers off that easily.

Midway through part two, McAlpine involved Rundle and Maskell in a private deflecting match dangerously close to Wycombe's goal, and with 12 minutes remaining, McAlpine, this time assisted by Jones, moved onto a through ball towards the home net.

Maskell dashed from his line as McAlpine was first to latch onto possession. But as the number eight, failed to gain complete control, he cleared the threat.

Four minutes later, Radmore swung a shot around the Wycombe defence, but again met with a tremendous piece of covering from the Wycombe 'keeper.

Vince Faulkner was introduced as a tactical substitute in place of Dave Thomas six minutes from time.

**Wycombe Wanderers:** J. Maskell; I. Rundle, C. Gale; K. Stephenson, J. Delaney, D. Thomas (subs: Faulkner); L. Worley, B. Baker, V. Busby, K. Samuels, G. Anthony.

**Erith & Belvedere:** Everitt, J. Whittington (subs: Danks, B. Greatorex; R. Watson, K. Gurr, G. Jones; G. Cooper, R. McAlpine, R. Radmore, C. Street, D. Butterfill.



One of several brilliant saves made by Wanderers' goalkeeper, John Maskell, against Erith on Saturday.